

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OMB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05

OPR-01 SY-04 IO-10 SR-02 ORM-01 /079 W

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O P 211138Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9005

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL PHNOM PENH 1273

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: TWENTY-FIRST DAY OF KC DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 1202

1. SUMMARY: THE KC OVERRAN AN IMPORTANT KHMER NAVAL POSITION ALONG THE LOWER MEKONG NEAR THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE BORDER. THE KC CONTINUED TO FIRE ROCKETS AT PHNOM PENH AND POCHENTONG AIRPORT. FANK FORCES SCORED SOME GOOD RESULTS IN SEVERAL ENCOUNTERS AROUND PHNOM PENH. END SUMMARY.

2. KC FORCES ON JANUARY 20 OVERRAN A KHMER NAVAL INFANTRY POSITION ON THE WEST BANK OF THE LOWER MEKONG CLOSE TO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE BORDER. ELEMENTS OF THE UNITS ARE REESTABLISHING THEMSELVES ON THE EAST BANK OF THE RIVER. ABOUT 100 FRIENDLY TROOPS ARE REPORTED KILLED OR MISSING, AND FOUR FANK 105MM HOWITZERS WERE REPORTED DESTROYED.

3. FOUR 107MM ROCKETS ARE NOW REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN FIRED AT POCHENTONG AIRPORT DURING THE LATE AFTERNOON

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OF JANUARY 20 (NOT SIX AS REPORTED REFTEL). AS FAR

AS WE KNOWN, THERE HAS BEEN NO DAMAGE TO THE AIRFIELD. THREE ROCKETS LANDED IN THE AREA OF THE KHMER NAVAL BASE OPPOSITE PHNOM PENH, REPORTEDLY KILLING THREE PERSONS AND WOUNDING NINE OTHERS. THE KC ARE ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE FIRED 18 ROUNDS OF 105MM HOWITZER AND/OR 107MM ROCKETS EARLY JANUARY 21. TEN LANDED AROUND THE MAIN AMMUNITION DEPOT NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH AND EIGHT LANDED IN THE VICINITY OF THE RADIO STATION, WHICH IS CLOSE TO POCHENTONG.

4. FANK HAS REPORTED KILLING THIRTY KC SOLDIERS IN AN OPERATION ALONG ROUTE 4 AND OVER 50 OTHERS IN ENGAGEMENTS ON THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG OPPOSITE PHNOM PENH AND NORTHEAST OF THE CITY.

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